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PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of Program Resources Management

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Friday, May 2, 2008

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HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE

PHILIPPINES – IOM, USAID, Save the Children Hand Over, Homes, Supplies to Typhoon Survivors –

(Source: IOM Press Briefing Notes – 5/02/08)

IOM, USAID, Save the Children and the provincial government of Camarines Sur on Wednesday handed over new houses, construction tools and basic supplies to 41 families made homeless by Typhoon Reming in November 2006.

The handover in Barangay San Vicente (Gorong-gorong) in Nabua was attended by Camarines Sur Governor Luis Raymond F. Villafuerte, Jr., Nabua Mayor Ferdinand Simbulan and representatives from USAID, IOM and Save the Children.

IOM and Save the Children were among the first agencies to respond to the massive internal displacement caused by the typhoon, and are continuing to partner with USAID to contribute to the Philippine government's sustainable recovery programme in the hardest hit provinces of Albay and Camarines Sur.

IOM's contribution includes construction of typhoon-resistant housing and multi-purpose community centres, while Save the Children is conducting disaster risk-reduction trainings, distributing non-food items and providing livelihood assistance to local residents.

To date IOM has constructed 70 new homes and plans to build another 472, of which 100 will be completed by the end of May.